



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

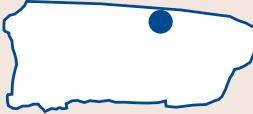
## Toa Baja, PR

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Municipality of Toa Baja was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Toa Baja's 94,085 residents in northern Puerto Rico have an unemployment rate of 41.3 percent and a poverty rate of 37.2 percent. Unemployment is 44 percent among the 722 residents in Pueblo Ward, the target area in Toa Baja's urban core. Delays in channeling the La Plata River, which often causes devastating floods in Toa Baja, have forced businesses to relocate and, as a result, the Pueblo Ward has languished economically and socially. Now that the Army Corps of Engineers is set to begin channeling the river, assessment and redevelopment of the target site will be the first step toward revitalizing the area and rejuvenating economic opportunities.



### Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Municipality of Toa Baja for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to perform Phase I and II assessments, develop a cleanup plan, and conduct community outreach for a former medical center site in the Pueblo Ward of Toa Baja. A variety of solvents and metals may have contaminated this deteriorated site.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team  
212-637-4314

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/  
brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: Toa Baja, PR  
787-261-0202

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.